



Safe Routes to School and Sustainable Transportation

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Chicago's Safe Routes
Ambassadors



CHICAGO'S
**Safe Routes
Ambassadors**

Road Map for Today's Workshop

- What is Safe Routes to School?
- Benefits of Safe Routes to School:
 - Sustainability
 - Community
 - Health
 - Education
- Enabling Active Transportation Choices
 - Challenges
 - Tools
- Summary & Questions
- Resources



What is Safe Routes to School?

- Improves student safety while increasing the number of walking and biking trips to school
- 4 Es:
 - Education
 - Encouragement
 - Engineering
 - Enforcement
- Chicago model for Safe Routes to School:
 - Urban traffic issues (vs. suburban or rural)
 - Large percentage of students already walk
 - Many student transit users
 - Student security and violence



Safe Routes to School and Sustainability Benefits

- Safe Routes to School can have the following impact on a school's environmental footprint:
 - Busing
 - Vehicle volume during arrival and dismissal
 - Idling in drop-off and pick-up lanes
 - Further discussions about sustainable transportation



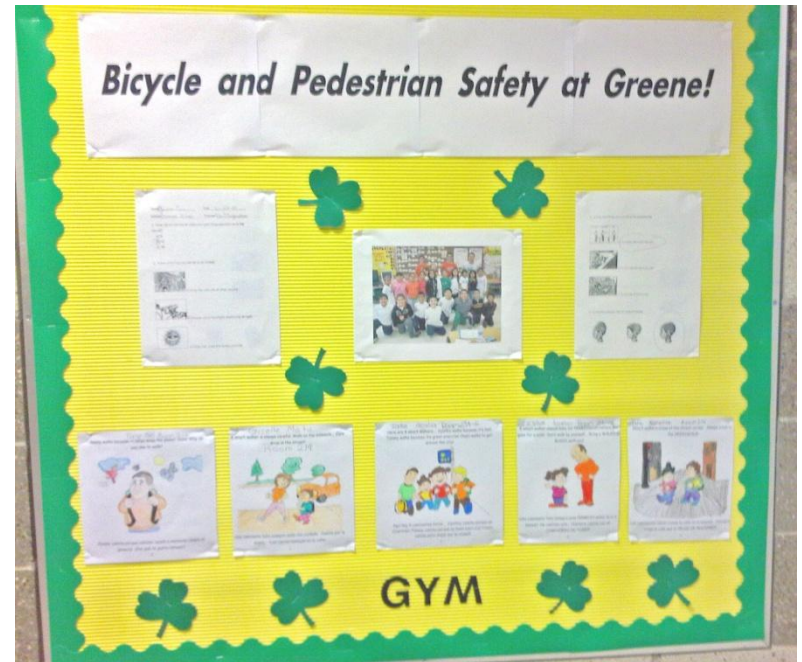
Safe Routes to School and Community Benefits

- When more people walk and bike:
 - Streets are safer → cars slow down
 - Crime is deterred → more “eyes on the street”
 - Communities are more active
 - Pedestrian traffic can stimulate business growth



Safe Routes to School and Health Benefits

- When more people walk and bike:
 - Helps students get their required daily physical activity
 - Parents and caretakers also become more active
 - As communities become more walking/biking-focused, can generate momentum for more active lifestyle



Safe Routes to School and Educational Benefits

- SRTS activities can improve student focus and learning
- SRTS can support and expand existing curricular goals
- SRTS can help create a culture of active, safe students
- SRTS activities can improve parent engagement



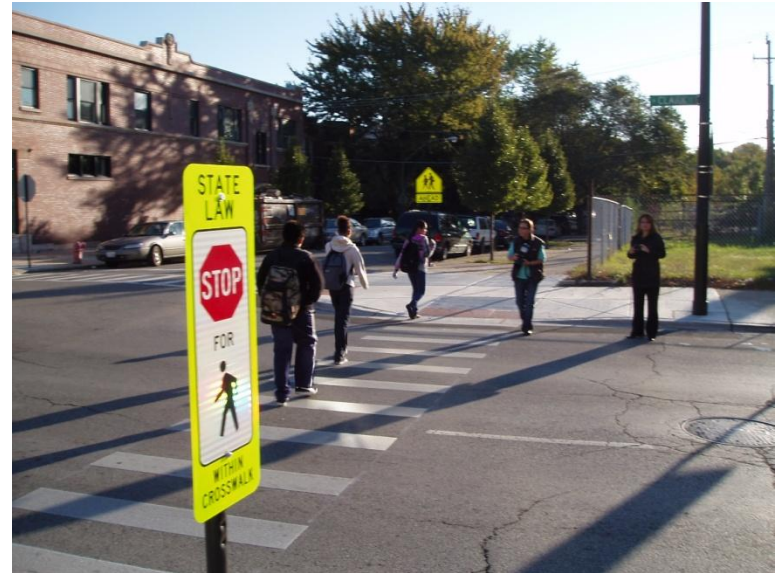
Enabling Active Transportation Choices

- Why are people hesitant to walk or bike?
 - Traffic safety
 - Crime
 - Distance
 - Kids think it's "not cool"
 - Availability of bike facilities



Traffic Safety Issues in Chicago

- Often overlooked because security and violence issues claim more lives
- Traffic-related fatalities are preventable
- Factors to consider:
 - Speed
 - Crosswalks
 - Alleys and Driveways
 - Buses
 - Bikes
 - Snow



How to Address Traffic Safety Issues

- Safety education in the classroom and at home
- Model good behavior when you drive
- Model good behavior when you walk
- Walking School Buses
- Parent Patrols
- Non-emergency reporting – 311 for snow, damaged signage, broken street lights



Crime, Distance, “Un-Cool”, Availability of Bike Facilities

- Crime:
 - CAPS’ “Safe Passages” include Parent Patrols, Walking School Buses, Safe Havens
- Distance:
 - “Kiss and Fly” lot
- “Un-Cool”:
 - Encouragement events, class-by-class mileage contests, poster contests
- Availability of bike facilities:
 - Talk to school administration, call 311



Activities and Resources: Dept. of Transportation

- Chicago's Safe Routes Ambassadors
 - In-class and on-foot education for students
 - Parent outreach
 - Community outreach
- Safe Routes to School Toolbox
- Lessons, worksheets
- Organizational support
- Goodies and rewards



Activities and Resources: CAPS, CLOCC, Active Transportation Alliance

- CAPS

- Parent Patrol, Walking School Bus, Safe Passages

- CLOCC

- Walkability Survey
- Parent Patrols

- Active Transportation Alliance

- Walk Across Illinois
- Better Blocks
- Lesson Plans/Resource Guide



Summary & Questions

- SRTS activities can be used to reduce the environmental impact of school transportation
- Resources available to help implement SRTS activities
- Benefits of SRTS extend beyond sustainability
- Questions?



Resources

- Chicago's Safe Routes Ambassadors:
 - www.saferoutesambassadors.org
- Call 311 for immediate safety concerns
- Chicago Police Department/CAPS:
 - www.chicagopolice.org
- CLOCC (Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children):
 - www.clocc.net
- Active Transportation Alliance:
 - www.activetrans.org
- National Center for Safe Routes to School
 - <http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/>

